

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Greenway Historic District (Boundary Increase 2007)

other names/site number DHR File # 021-0963-0132, also DHR File # 021-0657

2. Location

street & number 14374 Lord Fairfax Highway not for publication N/A

city or town White Post vicinity X

state Virginia code VA county Clarke code 043 zip code 22663

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) **Category of Property** (Check only one box)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious facility
 FUNERARY Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious facility
 FUNERARY Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Other: Vernacular Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Metal
walls Wood; Asbestos
other Brick; Concrete

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture

Period of Significance 1760-1943 (same as original district)

Significant Dates 1918

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	17	750790	4327327	2			<u>See continuation sheet.</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maral S. Kalbian, Architectural Historian
organization Maral S. Kalbian, LLC date May 31, 2007
street & number P.O. Box 468 telephone 540-955-1231
city or town Berryville state VA zip code 22611

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Ebenezer Baptist Church Trustees c/o Nanette Shepherd
street & number 4011 Bedford Place telephone 301-899-1145
city or town Silver Hill state MD zip code 207463

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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National Register of Historic Place
Continuation Sheet

Greenway Historic District (Boundary Increase 2007)
Clarke County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 1

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church (DHR # 021-0657) is located adjacent to the northeast boundary of the Greenway National Register Historic District at 14374 Lord Fairfax Highway. According to the datestone, the current building was constructed in 1918 replacing an earlier 1897 church. Built as a Baptist church for an African-American congregation, the 1-story, gable-end frame building is three bays deep and contains a mid-20th-century, shed-roofed, concrete block side wing. The church, which is located on the west side of Route 340 as it makes a turn to the north near the village of White Post, sits on a 1 1/2-acre tract that includes a cemetery containing approximately 200 marked graves. A graveled driveway south of the church leads to a grassy parking area. A modern, five-foot monument sign of brick and plywood, located in the front yard, states the name of the church and the time of services.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Located on the outskirts of White Post directly adjacent to a northeastern boundary of the Greenway Historic District, Ebenezer Baptist Church was constructed in 1918 on the site of an 1897 church that burned.¹ The 1-story, gable-end frame church, which fronts onto Route 340, rests on a random rubble stone foundation and is three bays deep. Square-headed, double-hung wood windows with a pointed-arched tracery pattern, as well as the diamond-shaped attic window in the front gable end, give the building its vernacular Gothic Revival appearance. The church is currently clad in asbestos siding and features a standing-seam metal gable roof with overhanging eaves and an exterior side brick flue. A gable-roofed entrance bay is located on the front of the building with side concrete block lean-tos that contain bathrooms. The bathrooms are naturally lighted by small windows of glass bricks laid in a Latin cross pattern. A shed-roofed rectangular chancel bay projects from the rear and appears original. A mid-20th-century concrete block wing projects to the north side of the original church. The roof is clad in v-crimp metal and the wood windows are 1/1-sash. Other details in the wing include an interior brick flue, several doors, and T-111 siding in the attic story.

The interior of Ebenezer Baptist Church is very much intact and features original flooring, wainscot, and pews. The side addition contains a kitchen and meeting room.

A cemetery surrounds the church on three sides and contains approximately 200 marked graves. The oldest stones are located directly adjacent to the back of the church building and the earliest legible death date noted is 1892. A number of graves are marked only with small fieldstones bearing no inscriptions and in fact may predate the 1892 burial. Several prominent local African-American families are buried in the cemetery including Crittendon, Jackson, Laws, Morris, Payne, Sloane, Tigney, Washington, Williams, Wedlock, and Whitmore, among others.² These include some of the first trustees of the church when it was established in the mid-1880s.

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The Greenway Historic District contains several African-American churches similar in form to Ebenezer Baptist Church. This supports its inclusion as a contributing building as well as the surrounding cemetery as a contributing site that sits on the same parcel.

ENDNOTES

¹ Doleman, Gary M. *Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church*. Unpublished letter. October 10, 2004:1.

² Royston, Don and Mary. *Cemeteries of Clarke County Virginia*. Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Publishing, 2005:27-31.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When the Greenway Historic District was first proposed for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1993, Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff recommended not including structures that were surrounded by non-contributing resources or the jumping back-and-forth across streets, particularly at the boundary edge of a district. Man-made features, in this case, US Route 340, were also used to define boundaries. Although the district crosses the Route 340 boundary (Lord Fairfax Highway) north of this property to take in multiple contributing resources, it was felt that the isolated nature of Ebenezer Baptist Church and cemetery (DHR # 021-0657) did not warrant the crossing of Route 340 at that location. However, subsequent research has provided a persuasive argument as to the historic significance of this resource, justifying the increase of the Greenway Historic District Boundary to include the property.

Ebenezer Baptist Church and cemetery were established in the late 1880s. Although a datestone in the current building indicates the original church was constructed in 1897, historic research and associated gravestones suggest that a church was on or near the site by 1885.¹

The Greenway Historic District focuses primarily on a rural area in southern Clarke County. Containing not only large farms and estates, the district also includes the African-American communities of Sugar Hill and Bethel. In addition, the village of White Post contains several African-American resources that are already included within the Greenway Historic District boundaries, the most relevant of which is the Mt. Olive Baptist Church (DHR #021-0658).² The building was constructed 1908 and is located directly across Route 340 from Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The original Greenway Historic District nomination did not specify Ethnic Heritage as an area of significance, but rather listed only architecture; agriculture; education; exploration/settlement; industry; and transportation. However, the original nomination did discuss the development and architecture of several other African-American churches, thereby justifying the inclusion of Ebenezer Baptist Church within the boundaries. Not only is the church still used by an African-American congregation, many of whom reside outside the county, but it also falls within the listed period of significance for the entire district (ca. 1760-1943).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 2002, as part of a CLG project #66014, a comprehensive report of African- American histories and communities in Clarke County was published. *The African-American Historic Context Final Report: Clarke County* identified numerous African-American communities and their associated resources. Among these was Ebenezer Baptist Church and Cemetery, which predates the Mt. Olive Baptist Church by more than two decades.

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John Alexander was a large land holder in Clarke County who is recorded in the 1860 US Census as owning more than 800 acres and 38 slaves. Not only did Alexander provide the land for Ebenezer Baptist Church, but it was also his land on which the white Methodist Church was built. Alexander was described by Dr. Sommerville in Gold's *History of Clarke County* as being unconventional.

“He [Alexander] was peculiar in his dress or costume—wore his hair long, tied with a string in queue style. He almost always attended service, and was importuned by some of the church members to unite with the church, his reply was, ‘He had no occasion to belong to the church, because the church belonged to him,’ meaning that he had assumed a certain indebtedness for the [White Post Methodist] church which it had failed to cancel.”⁶

ENDNOTES

¹ Clarke County Deed Book S:213.

² Mt. Olive is now known as Life in the Word Church of Jesus Christ.

³ Kalbian, Maral S. and Leila O. W. Boyer. *African-American Historic Context Final Report: Clarke County*, 2002 85.

⁴ Gold, Thomas D. *History of Clarke County Virginia*. Berryville, VA: Chesapeake Book Company, 1962 [reprint of original 1914 edition]:55.

⁵ Clarke County Deed Book S:213.

⁶ Gold:53.

With the addition of Ebenezer Baptist Church and Cemetery (DHR #021-0657) to the Greenway Historic District, the district continues to encompass the largest concentration of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early- to mid-twentieth-century historic resources of a primarily agricultural area that also includes the village of White Post. These resources tell a distinctive story of the growth and development of a rural landscape in the southwestern portion of Clarke County. Ebenezer Baptist Church is part of the visual character of this area as now the boundary is located directly across Lord Fairfax Highway. In addition, all other boundaries of the existing district were reexamined to see whether other increases should be made. No other possible expansions were noted that tie in with the historical development of the existing district.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

All photographs are of: **Greenway Historic District (Boundary Increase 2007)**

VDHR File Number: **021-0963**

Location: **Clarke County, Virginia**

Date of photograph: **November 2006**

Photographer: **Maral S. Kalbian**

Negative Number: **23819**

Negatives filed at Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia.

Photo 1 of 3

View: Ebenezer Baptist Church, looking northwest

Negative no. [20]

Photo 2 of 3

View: Detail of cornerstone

Negative no. [19]

Photo 3 of 3

View: Cemetery, looking southwest from behind church

Negative no. [16]